

**Bible Study Discussion Notes**  
**On Being Clean**  
**Week Beginning 14<sup>th</sup> March 2011.**

**Welcome.**

*Q: When was the last 'Posh Do' that you went to? What did you wear?*

**Word.**

*Q: Read Matthew 15:10-20.*

v11 Jesus is referring to The Mosaic Clean Laws (see for example Lev 5:2-3 and Lev 11). They said that if a person touched anything that was dead, had an infectious skin disease, came into contact with mildew, had any bodily discharges (like the runs), or ate food which came from any non-Kosher animals, like pigs, then they were to consider themselves to be "ritually impure and unclean". Which meant that "they could not go into the temple and worship God with the community. They had to get themselves clean before they could do that.

*Q: Why did God give the Jewish people these laws?*

*Q: What Physical rituals do we use that symbolise spiritual truths?*

*Q: Do you think people in our society generally think they are morally/spiritually OK? Who are they comparing themselves to?*

*Q: If we compare ourselves to say "Jack the Ripper" are we morally/spiritually OK – good even!?  
If we compare ourselves to Jesus/The God of Heaven are we morally/spiritually OK?*

*Q: Why is it true that the more we get to know Jesus and his ways, the more inadequate/sinful we realise we are? (see Matthew 5:48)*

*Q: What is wrong with us? See v19*

*Alexander Solzhenitsyn, said, "The line separating good and evil passes, not through states, nor through class systems, nor between political parties... but right through every human heart and through all human hearts".*

*C.S. Lewis put it this way "For the first time I examined myself with a serious practical purpose. And there I found what appalled me: a zoo of lusts, a bedlam of ambitions, a nursery of fears and a harem of fondled hatreds. My name was Legion."*

If nothing unclean can enter into God's presence, if nothing is worthy to stand before him without having been declared innocent (without having their slate wiped clean), the question is "how can we be made clean and be declared "not guilty"? How can we be Justified?

*Q: Why does trying hard to be good, and observing food rituals not work, v17?*

- Q: What does Religion try to do to make us the people God would have us be? And why does it fail?*
- Q: What does Political Social/Economic Policy try to do to make us the people God would have us be? And why does it fail?*
- Q: What does “School / Business / Popular Culture” try to do to make us the people God would have us be (you could also use the phrase “Justify our existence” as a helpful phrase to see what the world is trying to tell us makes us worthy) ? And why does it fail?*
- Q How does Jesus say that He has the answer (v13 and v14)*
- Q: How does Jesus’ action on the cross change our hearts?*
- Q: How does Jesus’ action on the cross Justify us?*